

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BUENOS AIRES MARCH 22, 1973 FROM
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SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL NARCOTICS REPORT ISSUED

1. CONGRESSMEN MURPHY AND STEELE ISSUED MARCH 21 REPORT
OF STUDY MISSION TO LATIN AMERICA AND GERMANY ON NARCOTICS
MATTERS. SUMMARY OF PERTINENT PART CONCERNING ARGENTINA
FOLLOWS.

2. ARGENTINA IS TRANSSHIPMENT POINT FOR HARD NARCOTICS
DESTINED US. ORIGINALLY GOA RELUCTANT TO ADMIT THAT
ARGENTINA PLAYED SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN NARCOTICS SMUGGLING
TO US. GOA BECAME AWARE THAT ROLE WHEN 46 KILOS HEROIN
SEIZED AUGUST 20, 1972 IN BA ABOARD AEROLINEAS PLANE. IN
RESPONSE TO US INITIATIVES AND GROWING AWARENESS THAT DRUG
ABUSE COULD BECOME SERIOUS ARGENTINE PROBLEM, GOA IS
COOPERATING IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EFFORTS AND IS PLAY-
ING LEADING ROLE THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA AGAINST NAR-
COTICS SMUGGLING.

3. GOA ACTIVE IN HELPING USG DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION TO STOP FLOW OF NARCOTICS. ALTHOUGH FEW
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SEIZURES HAVE BEEN MADE IN ARGENTINA, RELIABLE AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT GOA ACTIONS HAVE CAUSED INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS TO MOVE MOST OF OPERATIONS ELSEWHERE AND THAT THERE COULD BE STOCKPILES OF HEROIN IN ARGENTINA.

4. NO EVIDENCE THAT HIGH- RANKING GOA OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC, ALTHOUGH FORMER HEAD OF NARCOTICS SECTION FEDERAL POLICE RELIEVED SPRING 1972 FOR SUCH INVOLVEMENT VIA INFO PROVIDED BY BNDD. GOA AUTHORITIES BELIEVE SITUATION NOW UNDER CONTROL, ALTHOUGH COCAINE AND COCOA LEAF SMUGGLING CONTINUES. GOA BELIEVES EXTENSIVE INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM IS VITAL TO INHIBIT FLOW NARCOTICS THROUGH ARGENTINA. BESIDES IMPROVING THEIR OWN INTELLIGENCE CAPACITY, ARGENTINES HAVE SUGGESTED THAT ALL LATIN AMERICANS ESTABLISH SEPARATE INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION. GOA NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PRESENTLY HAMPERED BY LACK OF LAW PERMITTING FEDERAL POLICE TO FUNCTION NATIONWIDE.

5. PREVIOUSLY ARGENTINE CUSTOMS MADE NO SPECIFIC EFFORT AGAINST NARCOTICS SMUGGLING. THIS NOW CHANGING AND WITH ASSISTANCE US CUSTOMS ARGENTINE CUSTOMS PROCEEDING TO TRAIN INVESTIGATIVE BODY FOR INTENSIFIED INVESTMENT EFFORTS ALONG BORDER. GOA ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT SINCE PROBLEM IS INTERNATIONAL THERE MUST BE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO STOP IT.

6. REPORT SKETCHES ACTIONS TO DATE IN USG- GOA COOPERATION AND CONCLUDES THAT USG HAS AGREED TO FURNISH EQUIPMENT TO GOA FOR ENFORCEMENT, MAINLY TO GENDARMERIE AND CUSTOMS. WHILE NEITHER IS COMPLETELY EFFECTIVE, ANTICIPATED THAT EQUIPMENT, IF IT EVER ARRIVES, WILL HELP IMPROVE CAPABILITY. STUDY MISSION DISTURBED TO LEARN THAT ALTHOUGH MATERIAL ASSISTANCE OFFERED GOA ALMOST NINE MONTHS AGO, USG WASHINGTON HAD NOT YET APPROVED REQUEST WHILE TEAM WAS IN BA. REPORT STATES THAT THIS CAUSES MANY OFFICIALS AT US EMBASSY AND GOA TO QUESTION SERIOUSNESS OF US COMMITMENT TO DEVOTE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO ELIMINATION INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS SMUGGLING. ROGERS UNQUOTE ROGERS

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